

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CODEL HAYAKAWA VISIT TO JAPAN JANUARY 5-14

REF: TOKYO 19998

1. DURING 10-DAY VISIT, SENATOR HAYAKAWA AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT PRAT MET WITH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA, AGRICULTURAL MINISTER NAKAGAWA, LABOR VICE MINISTER FUJINAWA, LDP POLITICIANS FARM ORGANIZATION REPS, AND BUSINESS LEADERS AND VISITED SONY AND NISSAN PLANTS, AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT-RUN VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL.

2. CODEL STRESSED THREE THEMES IN MEETINGS AND INTERVIEWS WITH ASAHI AND TOKYO SHIMBUN:

1. JAPAN' INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOR SHOULD REFLECT HER ECONOMIC SUPER-POWER STATUS THROUGH MUCH GREATER EXPANSION IN JAPANESE ECONOMIC AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, EMPHASIS ON CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND LIBERALIZATION OF TRADE.

2. UNLESS JAPAN MOVES MORE RAPIDLY TO OPEN UP ITS DOMESTIC MARKET TO FOREIGN GOODS, PARTICULARLY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, JAPAN'S OVERSEAS CUSTOMERS SUCH AS US WILL RESPOND TO THEIR OWN DOMESTIC PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES
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AND LIMIT JAPANESE EXPORTS TO THEIR MARKETS.

3. CRITICISM OF SPECIFIC JAPANESE ECONOMIC POLICIES IN US DOES NOT REPRESENT INCREASE IN ANTI-JAPANESE SENTIMENT, WHICH IS ALMOST NON-EXISTENT AT THIS TIME. INSTEAD, INTEREST IN JAPANESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY AT UNPRECEDENTEDLY HIGH LEVEL

IN US.

3. IN LENGTHY CONVERSATION WITH AGRICULTURAL MINISTER NAKAGAWA AND LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NAKAO, CODEL URGED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN JAPANESE CITRUS FRUIT AND JUICE QUOTAS AND ARGUED THAT JAPAN SHOULD WORK TOWARDS ELIMINATION OF INEFFICIENT AND INTERNATIONALLY NON-COMPETITIVE RICE CULTIVATION. NAKAGAWA COUNTERED THAT IF GOJ ADOPTED SUCH POLICIES, FARMERS WOULD ABANDON THEIR TRADITIONAL SUPPORT OF RULING LDP, AND EXTREME LEFT COALITION, THREATENING BASIC US-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP, WOULD GAIN POWER IN ITS PLACE. BOTH NAKAGAWA AND NAKAO CALLED FOR MORE FREQUENT MEETINGS BETWEEN "HAWKISH" CONGRESSMEN AND THEIR LDP "SEIRANKAI" COUNTERPARTS. TO INCREASE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICAL REALITIES IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

4. IN MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER, SENATOR HAYAKAWA PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT BY JAPANESE INDUSTRIALISTS OF JAPANESE VERSION OF RHODES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN ORDER TO ATTRACT "BEST AND BRIGHTEST" OF FOREIGN STUDENTS TO JAPAN FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDY AND TO DRAMATIZE JAPAN'S INTEREST IN UTILIZING PROFITS DERIVED FROM INTERNATIONAL TRADE FOR CULTURAL PURPOSES. PRIME MINISTER (AS WELL AS VICE MINISTER OF EDUCATION KONDO IN SEPARATE MEETING) URGEND SENATOR HAYAKAWA TO SUPPORT CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR UN UNIVERSITY. THE SENATOR SAID HIS UNCLASSIFIED

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OPPOSITION TO USG FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF UN UNIVERSITY REMAINED UNCHANGED AND HE DECLINED TO MEET WITH UN UNIVERSITY RECTOR HESTER.

5. AT MEETING WITH TOP EXECUTIVES OF NISSAN MOTOR COMPANY, CODEL EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NISSAN WOULD SOON AGREE TO OPEN NISSAN PLANT IN CALIFORNIA. NISSAN EXECUTIVES ANSWERED THAT NO FINAL DECISION ON INVESTMENT IN US HAD BEEN REACHED. SHERMAN

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